



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Nancy Floreen

For Immediate Release

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**Councilmember Floreen to Cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg:
“Level the Playing Field -- Pass the Smoking Ban Now!”**

“Since the County prohibition on smoking in restaurants and bars took effect October 9th, I’ve heard from dozens of County residents grateful for the chance to eat and drink smoke-free. And many residents from Washington D.C., northern Virginia and neighboring counties in Maryland have told me they are traveling to patronize our newly non-smoking restaurants.

“Several restaurants have called as well, reporting they have not lost business since the ban was implemented. This is exactly the result we expected, based on the experience of the many other jurisdictions that have prohibited smoking in restaurants.

“A very few establishments say that their revenues have declined since October 9th. These restaurants state that they are losing customers to similar establishments inside the city limits of Rockville and Gaithersburg, where the County bill doesn’t apply. These owners tell me they don’t object to the smoking ban *per se*, but seek only to level the playing field.

“Last night, the Rockville City Council scheduled a public hearing on the City-wide prohibition for November 17th. Gaithersburg held its own hearing over the summer. I’m pleased that the Cities are moving forward, and I encourage them to act swiftly to enact this important public health measure.”

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